been approved by the Parliament as yet. The allocation of funds State-wise/ district-wise will be done only after the approval of Demand for Grants of the DoT by the Parliament.

(d) Exchange equipment for setting up the exchanges during 1999-2000 has already been procured. For the new exchanges for 2000-2001 onwards procurement of land, construction of building and fund is being arranged.

Telecom centres established in Assam

2011. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA TIONS be pleased to stale:

(a) the details of norms/criteria on the basis of which the telecom centres are to be established in the different parts of the country;

(b) the total number of telecom centres established in Assam during the last three years; and

(c) the details of telecom centres proposed to be set up in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

. THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Telecom Centres are established on demand> need and feasibility basis to provide commonly used telecom facilities like, Telegram, Fax, STD/ISD operations etc. at places, such as-Railway Stations, Long distance bus terminals, Airports, Hospitals, Market complexes etc.

(b) The Telecom Centres established as on date are 12 in the State of Assam. One Telecom Centre has been established during the last three years.

(c) There is no set target to open Telecom Centres during the Ninth Five Year Plan since these Telecom Centres are opened on the basis of demand, need and feasibility.

STD facility in rural areas of Meghalaya

2012. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of electronic telephone exchanges having STD facilities being set up in all the districts of Meghalaya;

(b) the number of such telephone exchanges set up during the last three years and till date; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide STD facilities to all telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Electronic telephone exchanges with STD facilities are being set up at Rymbai, 8th Mile, Shangpung, Balat, Sumer and Rambari during 1999-2000.

(b) Fourteen electronic telephone exchanges with STD facilities were set up during last three years and till date.

(c) To provide STD facilities transmission media like OFC, M/W, MCPC systems are being planned and installed.

Quasi judicial status of TRAI

2013. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India retaining its quasi judicial status after promulgation of the ordinance enjoys exemption from audit objection;

(b) whether the Chairmen of PSUs and CAG have raised serious objection to the aforesaid move; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, while the CAG has objected to the exclusion of the tariff setting function from audit's purview, in this connection it is pointed out that under section 23(c) of the TRAI Act 1997, the accounts of TRAI shall be audited by the CAG at such intervals as may be specified by him. This provision empowering the CAG to audit the accounts of TRAI has not been affected by the amendment to section 23(2) of the Act, which has only inserted an explanation for the removal of doubts.

Non-operational multi access remote relays in Maharashtra

2014. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the multi access remote relays in the country are non-operational;